

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 19-26 and 29-50 remain pending in this application. Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 36-50 have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants request reconsideration of the Examiner's requirement regarding additional information under this section.

35 U.S.C. §112

Applicants submit that the language objected to by the Examiner is not present in claim 19 and has been removed from claim 32. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for conducting an interview with the undersigned on January 31, 2006. As stated in the Interview Summary, it appeared

that the proposed amendment discussed at the interview would overcome the references, although further search and consideration would follow. The current amendment to the claims are based upon the proposed amendment discussed at the interview and the following summarizes Applicants arguments presented at the interview.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 19-26 and 32-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,709) in view of Deng (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0216624). These rejections are traversed as follows.

It is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art. In particular, none of the cited references disclose a storage system including plural types of disk drives with different interfaces that can be coupled to and communicate with a controller as claimed. As stated in the claims, at least one of the plural types of disk drives can communicate with plural types of interfaces or protocols.

The cited references disclose selecting protocols or interfaces at a controller interface level, but not at a disk drive level. Therefore, the advantages of the present invention, such as the flexibility of combining different types of disk drives in a disk array system, cannot be realized. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

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Amendment dated February 6, 2006
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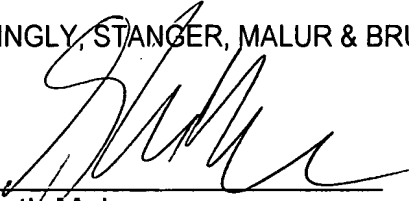
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 
Shrinath Malur
Reg. No. 34,663
(703) 684-1120